Package for Gandhi Darshan

†256. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared a national level unique package for Gandhi Darshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this package is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No such package has been prepared. However, a number of activities and programmes to promote the ideas of Gandhiji are undertaken through the Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti. The Department also facilitates development of selected sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi under the Gandhi Yatra Scheme.

Construction of trusts for shrines

257. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the State Tourism Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on May 13, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken towards constitution of trusts for the management of shrines in the country similar to what exists for Vaishno Devi Shrine?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Minister of Tourism and Culture had written to all the Chief Ministers on 5.12.2002 to consider enacting suitable legislation on the model of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988 "with a view to similarly improving the management and administration of the important temples and places of worship situated in their States".

A Conference of State Culture Ministers and State Culture Secretaries was held on 13th May, 2003 when the above need was further emphasised.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.